

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
ANN ARBOR
DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY

May 11, 1954

Professor Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
University of Wisconsin
Madison, Wisconsin

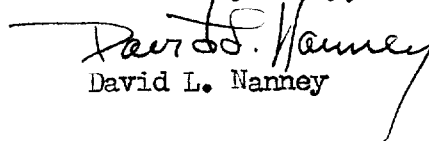
Dear Dr. Lederberg:

I would like to call to your attention the fact that Dr. Clement L. Markert has been suspended from the Faculty of the University of Michigan for failure to disclose details of past political affiliations and activities to the House Un-American Activities Subcommittee. Since Dr. Markert's intellectual integrity and scholarship will be considered by the University administration in disposing of the case, considerable weight may be attached to statements from persons qualified to judge either his personal qualifications as a scientist or his scholarly work as such.

If in good conscience you can support Dr. Markert, it is suggested that you write a personal letter to President Harlan Hatcher testifying to Markert's competence and intellectual independence. I am also enclosing a statement which may be signed and returned directly to me; this will be released to the press with the ~~with the~~ signatures obtained. If you should write President Hatcher, I would like to be so informed. Support from other interested persons whom you know would be greatly appreciated.

The time for effective action is short.

Yours very truly,


David L. Nanney

P.S. This is the only letter being sent to the Genetics Department.

Faculty Trio Is Suspended Follows Red Probe

Lansing, Mich.—(P)—Three University of Michigan faculty members were suspended Monday after they had refused to answer questions by the house subcommittee on un-American activities.

One of the faculty members and two students also were recommended for contempt citations by the subcommittee after their appearances Monday. They were:

Edward H. Shaffer, 31, of Ann Arbor, graduate student in economics at the university.

Byron E. (Mike) Sharp, 25, university graduate student.

Dr. H. Chandler Davis, 26, university mathematics instructor.

Representative Kit Clardy (Rep., Mich.) said the subcommittee would study further the testimony of Dr. Mark Nickerson, 37, associate professor of pharmacology, and Dr. Clement L. Markert, 37, assistant professor of zoology, before deciding on contempt proceedings.

Clardy said Shaffer and Sharp were in contempt because of contemptuous attitudes and answers and Dr. Davis because he relied only on the first amendment to the Constitution in declining to answer.

The first amendment guarantees freedom of speech, press and association. The subcommittee, Clardy said, recognizes only the fifth amendment, guaranteeing against self-incrimination, as a valid reason for declining.

All five declined to answer the direct question: "Are you now or have you ever been a member of the Communist party or of any organization advocating the overthrow of the government by force and violence."

Dr. Harlan Hatcher, university president, said this was sufficient grounds for the immediate suspension of Drs. Davis, Markert and Nickerson from their teaching duties pending an investigation.

Dr. Hatcher said they had the right of appeal to a special committee of the university senate before their cases go before the board of regents.



Three University of Michigan faculty members were suspended from their jobs Monday by Harlan H. Hatcher, president of the university, for defying the house subcommittee on un-American activities. From left are Dr. H. Chandler Davis, a mathematics teacher; Dr. Clement L. Markert, an assistant professor, and Dr. Mark Nickerson, an associate professor.

—AP Wirephoto

We the undersigned, colleagues of Professor Clement L. Markert in genetics and related fields, affirm our faith in his intellectual independence and integrity. We consider that Dr. Markert's scholarly work manifests a high regard for facts and for rational processes in arriving at conclusions. We find no evidence whatever for a slavish adherence to interpretations propounded by any group whatever. It is believed that these observations are of particular pertinence in view of the fact that Dr. Markert's genetic analyses are in direct contradiction to the well-known communist "party-line" in genetics.

NAME

TITLE

INSTITUTION OR SOCIETY